

DEPOSITION SUMMARY
MARY MARSHA JENKINS
September 12, 1994

RE: *Richard W. Jenkins, Admr., vs. James B. Day and Company*
Case No. 91 CVB01-492
Franklin County Common Pleas Court

1 Q. Is that how the conversation with Julette
2 took place also, through a two-phone hook-up?

3 A. No. I just talked to her that afternoon
4 myself. It wasn't a very satisfactory hook-up. Now we
5 have speaker phones, but it wasn't very satisfactory, so
6 like one of us would probably have to hang up and the
7 other would talk for a while.

8 Q. And it's my understanding that you made
9 arrangements to fly back up here to Columbus, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you ever spoken to the coroner or
12 anybody from the coroner's office about Julette's death?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Who did you speak to, do you know?

15 A. No, I don't know his name, but he called me.
16 But this was after we had returned to Florida. We were
17 back in Florida when I talked with him.

18 Q. Was it the coroner do you know or one of his
19 assistants?

20 A. I'm sure it was the coroner. I feel sure.

21 Q. Okay. What did you discuss with the
22 coroner?

23 A. He just called to tell me that they had
24 found methylene chloride in her body.

25 Q. Was this after the paint stripper had been

1 given by Claudia to the coroner do you know?

2 A. Yes. He wouldn't have known about it until
3 then.

4 Q. What else did he say as best as you can
5 remember during this conversation?

6 A. Just that he felt sure that that was the
7 problem, you know. He found it in her lungs.

8 (Short recess taken for the court reporter
9 to change paper)

10 Q. (By Ms. Dengler) Before we went off the record
11 so the court reporter could change paper, you were
12 talking about your conversation with the coroner, and do
13 you recall him saying that he found methylene chloride in
14 her lungs?

15 A. I believe it was her lungs.

16 Q. Can you recall anything else he would have
17 said?

18 A. He said "That's it, we found what killed
19 her." You know, I thought he acted like -- I guess he
20 was mystified, you know, because as I read the report,
21 everything was -- there was nothing that would have
22 killed her.

23 Q. Which report are you talking about, a report
24 you saw before this conversation or a report that you saw
25 after this conversation?

1 A. I'm talking about the autopsy.

2 Q. And that you would have seen before the
3 conversation with the coroner?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You saw it after?

6 A. I'm just saying what I have read, yes.

7 Q. Have you ever had any friends or relatives
8 or acquaintances that has experienced any difficulties
9 with a paint stripper or a product that contained
10 methylene chloride?

11 A. No. I've never really discussed it with
12 anybody that I can think of.

13 Q. Whose idea was it to provide the paint
14 stripper to the coroner or advise the coroner about paint
15 stripper being found in the house?

16 A. Whose idea was that? My husband's. A
17 secondhand furniture man mentioned to him that that's a
18 deadly thing to have in a house. He said "I would
19 suggest that you have that checked."

20 Q. Do you know who this secondhand furniture
21 man was?

22 A. No, I don't, but I might be able to find it
23 in the Columbus phone book. I don't know if he's still
24 around or not.

25 Q. Was this a call that your husband made, a

1 blind call to a furniture man?

2 A. No. We sold furniture out of the house to
3 him.

4 Q. And while you were selling the furniture out
5 of the house, there was some conversation about a paint
6 stripper being used?

7 A. Uh-huh,

8 Q. Is that "yes"?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. Can you recall anything more specific
11 that this secondhand furniture person would have said
12 about paint stripper being used?

13 A. No, other than I think he thought it was a
14 dangerous product.

15 Q. Did he say whether he personally had
16 experienced any problems with the paint stripper?

17 A. I didn't have the conversation with him, my
18 husband did mostly. I recall him saying it, I do recall
19 him saying it. He was up on the third floor. He was up
20 there with Dick.

21 Q. Did he discover the paint stripper with your
22 husband, the two of them together?

23 A. I don't know if they discovered it. I think
24 he just was looking around. He was looking around for
25 things he wanted to buy and he wanted to go up to the

1 third floor. He didn't have any reason to go there other
2 than to look for things that he wanted to buy.

3 Q. Were you present when he made this statement
4 about the paint stripper?

5 A. He came downstairs and talked to us about
6 it, yes.

7 Q. Can you recall anything more specific that
8 he said other than "That's a dangerous product to have
9 around the house"?

10 A. No, I can't.

11 Q. And it was after this comment that prompted
12 you and your family to provide the information to the
13 coroner?

14 A. We left it at Claudia's house and she took
15 it to the coroner. I believe she took it to the coroner.

16 Q. Did you talk to the neighbors, Mr. and Mrs.
17 Baker, on any occasions?

18 A. I had a brief conversation with her when we
19 were cleaning out the house, yes.

20 Q. What did you talk to Mrs. Baker about?

21 A. I really can't remember.

22 Q. How did you learn the Bakers had provided
23 the paint stripper to Julette?

24 A. I believe she told me.

25 Q. Mrs. Baker told you?